



Loudoun County, Virginia

Fire and Rescue Commission

16600 Courage Court, Leesburg, Virginia 20175

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14 September 2005

Supervisor James Clem, Chairman
Public Safety Committee
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Post Office Box 7000
Leesburg, Virginia 20177

VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 777-0325

Dear Supervisor Clem:

Since July, the Fire and Rescue Commission has reviewed and discussed the Proposed Service Plan for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System as requested by the Public Safety Committee on 20 June 2005. The Commission conducted six regional stakeholder meetings and received and reviewed written comments from interested volunteer and career members of the fire and rescue system. We provided the opportunity for public review of the plan and conducted a public hearing on 30 August 2005. We received comments from about 85 people during the course of our assessment. Many of our suggestions and recommendations have been incorporated into subsequent drafts of the service plan, resulting in the draft of 19 September 2005 that will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors.

On 13 September 2005, the Commission conducted a special meeting to conclude our consideration of the revised draft and to prepare our recommendations for service levels for your review and consideration. This memorandum summarizes our recommendations. I would like to note that the Fire and Rescue Commission adopted each service level recommendation unanimously.

The Fire and Rescue Commission has adopted the following service level recommendations:

Fire and Rescue Response Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the current level of service as the goal for turnout and response times and performance rules for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System with the further goal of adopting the high level of service as soon as possible,

but within 24 months of the adoption of the service plan, when accurate response assessment information becomes available.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

The Commission recommends that the Board defer enhancement of the current system response standards until there are fair and accurate methods and tools to judge the performance of staff and volunteer companies. The Department of Fire and Rescue Services has repeated this concern during their monthly statistical summaries to the Public Safety Committee and initial funding has been provided to correct this fundamental deficiency. Once we are able to rely on the statistical information provided by the Department, the Commission is prepared to recommend enhancements to the response standard.

Operational Staffing Goal for Combination Fire and Rescue System

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for operational staffing for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

The Commission notes that the principal staffing driver for the next six years is the opening of new fire and rescue stations. Facilities planned for Dulles 28/7, Lansdowne, Kirkpatrick Farms, and the Oatlands/Leesburg South area will require significant career staff investments. A secondary driver is the transition of a few volunteer companies from partial support to continuous (24-hour per day, 7-days per week) career support for their operations.

Non-Station Capital Improvement Program and Capital Needs Assessment Goals

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the following service goals for the non-station capital improvement (six-year) program and capital needs (10-year) assessment program:

Non-Station Capital Improvements:

- 2008 - • Office/Program/Classroom Facilities with Parking*
- • Communications Center Expansion/Relocation*
- 2009 - • Warehouse/Central Supply Facility*
- • Hazardous Materials/Chemical Prop Lot*

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Apparatus Service Life Goals

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the following apparatus service life goal for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System:

Primary Service Life⁽¹⁾

<i>1500 gpm engine</i>	<i>10 years</i>
<i>Ladder truck</i>	<i>12 years</i>
<i>Heavy rescue squad</i>	<i>12 years</i>
<i>Tanker</i>	<i>15 years</i>
<i>Brush truck</i>	<i>15 years</i>
<i>ALS ambulance</i>	<i>4 years</i>

Reserve Service Life

<i>1500 gpm engine</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Ladder truck</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Heavy rescue squad</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Tanker</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>Brush truck</i>	<i>5 years</i>
<i>ALS ambulance</i>	<i>2 years</i>

⁽¹⁾ Activity level, maintenance issues, safety concerns, and other factors may reduce the service and reserve service lifetime of fire and rescue apparatus.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the respiratory protection program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Program Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the volunteer recruitment and retention program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Emergency Medical Services Coordination and Support Program Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) coordination and support program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Planning and Administration Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the planning and administration program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Volunteer and Career Recruit and In-Service Training Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the volunteer and career recruit and in-service training program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Public Education Program Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the public education program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

Fire Marshal's Office Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the Fire Marshal's Office for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System and strongly urge the Board to promptly address the initiation of a civilian fire/life safety inspection program.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

The Commission noted that Loudoun County should have a goal of inspecting each commercial property annually. Without prompt initiation of a robust civilian fire/life safety inspection program, the County will be unable to meet this goal.

Emergency Communications and Support Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the medium level of service as the goal for the emergency communications and support program for the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System and further recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service for E911 call takers for the system.

The Commission also recommends that a service goal of processing all calls within one minute (90% of the time) be adopted and implemented as soon as possible, but no later than 24-months from the adoption of the service plan.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

The Commission notes that adoption of a service goal for the processing of all calls will provide insight into the performance of our emergency communications system and will enable more effective cost vs. benefit analyses for future fire and rescue technology and staffing enhancements.

Office of Emergency Management Service Goal

The Fire and Rescue Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors adoption of the high level of service as the goal for the Office of Emergency Management for Loudoun County.

The recommendation was adopted 5-0-0-2 with Commissioner M. Buchanan excused and one Commission seat vacant.

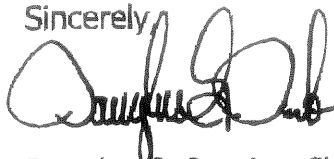
The Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the willingness of the career staff of the Department of Fire and Rescue Service and the volunteer fire and rescue companies and their members to unselfishly analyze and discuss the fire and rescue service needs of the citizens of Loudoun County. Developing a fire and rescue service plan has been a difficult task for the Board, County Administration, staff, and the volunteer community and we have reached consensus through this process.

In particular, the Commission would like to thank Chief Joseph Pozzo, the senior staff of the Department, and Assistant County Administrator John Sandy for their tireless efforts to develop and revise this proposal.

As I will be out of the United States on 19 September when the plan and our recommendations are presented to the Public Safety Committee, I also wish to thank the Chairman and the members of the Committee for giving Loudoun's fire and rescue community the opportunity to discuss the plan and reach a consensus. The fire and rescue system will be stronger for our all of our efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information. I plan to participate in the Board's discussions following my return on 30 September. I can be reached at drambo@loudoun.gov during my absence from the County.

Sincerely,



Douglas G. Rambo, Chairman
Loudoun County Fire and Rescue
Commission

Cc: Mr. Kirby Bowers, County Administrator
Mr. John Sandy, Assistant County Administrator
Chief Joseph Pozzo, Department of Fire and Rescue Services
Fire and Rescue Commissioners
Presidents and Chiefs of the County's Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Companies